

Sulphur - Morris -

A very good essay - & winning the
importance of Sulphur fumigations
Whatever may be the theory by which
we may explain their effects -

Sulphur

Caspard Moriz

1826

To the
Medical Professors
in the

University of Pennsylvania

The first fruit of their labors in this behalf is respectfully
presented

by their grateful pupil
Caspar Merriam

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An Essay
toward

a description of the
Medicinal properties

of
Sulphur—

By
Caspar Morris

of Montgomery Co. N.Y.

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The time has long since passed when every diligent student of Medical Science had it in his power to add some fresh fact of importance to our knowledge of diseases, or to bring into view some ~~fresh fact~~ new remedy by which when understood it may be alleviated and all that falls to the lot of its most sedulous cultivator at the present day, is to digest the great mass of information handed down by the unvaried diligence of his predecessors, that he may be able when called upon to apply in practice that which he may have acquired in study, to evidence that our Science is not one of probabilities, neither are its professors a set of dupes or impostors; despairing therefore to be able, either from minute investigation, or a happy combination of accidental circumstances, to strike out new ideas, I have satisfied myself with diligently investigating the Medicinal properties of Sulphur, and endeavoring to ascertain its claim to the high rank it formerly held in the estimation of men of sound judgment and close observation — Among the Ancients, especially the Chemists, it enjoyed great reputation

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and why it fell into neglect I have been unable to discover
since so long as they mention it at all it is with approbation.

In tracing its history every one must be struck with the decided
testimony given as to its power over diseases of the Lungs, as
Phtisis, Asthma, Ulcerations &c; in these it maintained its
ground during many centuries and received the sanction of
Dioscorides, Galienus, Aesculapius, Hippocrates, and in fact
of nearly all the writers till within a century, even those who
opposed the Chemical Practitioners. I have had no oppor-
tunity of testing its virtues in these diseases; but from what
I have seen I can readily suppose it might be found useful
in many cases which at a time when from their almost
entire ignorance of Pathology great inaccuracies would
creep into their Nosological distinctions would be classed
under the general heads of Consumption, Asthma, &c.

Without laying any stress however on the ease with which, even
at the present time, disease of the Liver may be confounded
with those of other organs, and especially the Lungs, I shall
proceed on the supposition that it has actually been service-
able in some cases of disease in those viscera, and endeavor

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to prove by fair induction, at least the possibility, that such
may have been the fact.

I believe there are few at the present day, ~~who~~ ~~are~~ at
all conversant with the general Economy of Nature, who hold
the idea, that a glass of the Linc of the Liver, so placed as to
drain as it were a great part of the blood of the body,
should have no other service to perform than the secretion of
a fluid for the purpose of stimulating the kidneys—

Considering it, with Richardson, as a grand assistant of the lungs
performing in a different way the same operation, viz, the Secre-
tion of the blood, and regarding this as a vital, not chemical
action, may we not rationally suppose that in the early, and
forming stages of Pulmonary affections, any thing which will
qually stimulate the Liver exciting it to brisker action
may by relieving the lungs of a part of their duty produce a
happy change in the situation of the Patient. In addition to this
when we take into view that in such cases the Liver is generally
irregular, or deficient in its action and, calculating the advantage
to be derived from the improved state of the alimentary canal.
produced by a regular supply of a necessary stimulus, add it to

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the former account, we shall form a tolerable estimate of the advantages which may be anticipated from the use of this article. It was I should suppose on similar grounds that Mercury obtained the credit it possessed some few years past in like cases and it has since in great measure lost from a too indiscriminate employment—

It however would possess one advantage over the latter that whilst the Mercurial preparations had the effect to debilitate the system, the Sulphur, on the contrary, repairs its lost energy, and restores to it a degree of tone—

That Sulphur exerts considerable influence over the Liver can scarcely admit of a doubt. Analysis of the different Mineral waters celebrated in the treatment of chronic diseases, many of not all of which are dependant originally on various congestions of the abdominal viscera and particularly of the Liver, proves Sulphur to enter largely into their composition. The alvine discharges, produced by its use, are such, as would lead to a supposition that there was an increased secretion of bile, their color being yellow and the sensation produced at the anus by their evacuation being the same as that in cases of bilious diarrhoea—Sulphur is by Hippocrates recomm.

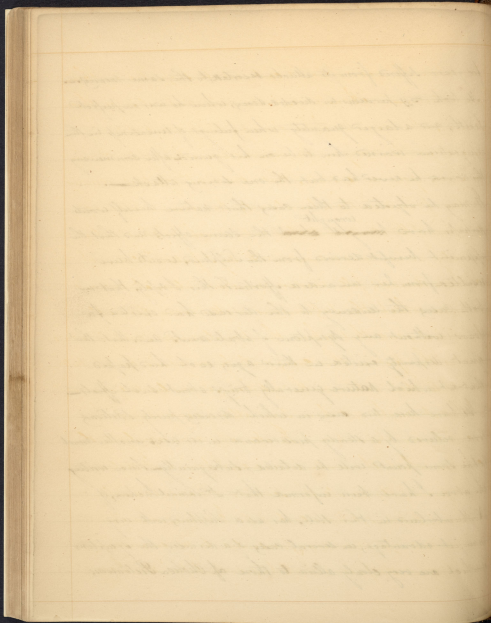
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ended in hysterical affections; and its action on the liver may
be inferred from this circumstance. Considering it as a tonic
in disease and probably cured by venous congestions of that
organ what would be more likely to relieve it than any thing,
which by exciting the action of the hepatic glands should thereby
occasion the blood to flow more rapidly through the Portal
Veins, in the first instance to supply the increased
demand in the Liver and may not the stimulus of the bile
to the Intestines produce a secondary action on the principles
of revulsion?—But these cases have come under my notice
directly in point. The first was that of a Gentleman about
50 years of age who had for a long time been subject to
very violent attacks of Biliary Colic, for which he had
been treated in the usual way for many years with no
other effect than the palliation of the immediate fit.—
By the representations of some of his friends he was induced
to have recourse to sulphur, taken in the absence of pain,
and in a short time was entirely relieved from his trouble.
— some visitant. Encouraged by its success in this instance
— a highly valued friend of my own after having

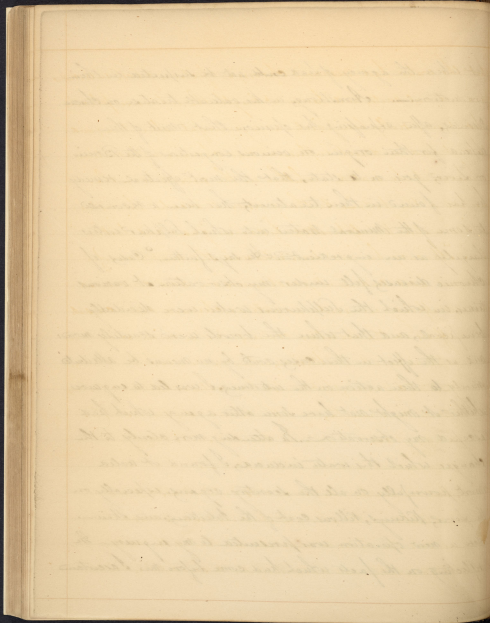
for years suffered from its attacks resorted, to the same means. —
He took ~~off~~ purgatives in decided doses, when he was in perfect
health, and a larger quantity when feelings of uneasiness in the
Epigastrium warned him to be on his guard. After commencing
this course he never had but the one soiling attack.

It may be objected to these cases that nature herself would
perhaps have ~~been~~ ^{wrought} ~~about~~ the same effects and that the
apparent benefit derived from the Sulphur, would have
resulted from her unaided efforts. To this I reply, that in
both cases the tendency to the disease had existed for
years without any symptoms of abatement. And, that tho'
great disparity existed in their ages, each had passed
that at which nature generally brings about such effects.

We have here two cases in which diseases purely Bilious
were relieved by a steady perseverance in its use. Another must
to the same point will be detailed subsequently. Since writing
the above I have been informed that Dr Samuel Jackson, of
Northumberland in this State, has used Sulphur, with very
manifest advantage, in several cases of a disorder the symptoms
of which are very closely allied to those of Cholera Pictonum.



but where the agency of lead could not be suspected in their
production. Armstrong, in his valuable treatise on Chronic
Diseases, after expressing his opinion that most of them
depend for their origin on venous congestions of the Brain
or Liver, goes on to state, that the most effectual remedy
he has found in their treatment, has been a recourse
to some of the Mineral Waters into which Sulphur enters
largely as an ingredient. He says further, "Cases of
Chronic diseases fell under my observation at various
times, in which the Sulphurous waters were decidedly
beneficial, and that when the bowels were scantily moved
and as the effect in these cases could by no means be attributed
merely to their action on the intestines, I was led to enquire
whether it might not have some other agency which had
escaped my observation. In attending more closely to the
changes which this water induces, I found it acted
most powerfully on all the secretory organs, especially on
the Liver, Kidneys, Mucous coat of the Intestines, and Skin.
Here a new operation was presented to my enquiry - In
reflecting on the facts which had come before me I ascertained



that this water had removed chronic affections of both internal and external parts, and hence at length the inference follows that it was really beneficial as a powerful attractant; and that it had a direct influence over chronic inflammation whenever it be seated whether in the viscera or on the surfaces of the body. He then goes on to ascribe the virtues of these waters to Sulfuretted hydrogen gas and further says Mercury has ever been esteemed the most powerful alterant used and most practitioners are now convinced that its efficacy in acute as well as chronic cases consists in its effects on the secretory organs; Now in this gas we have as powerful an agent as Mercury acting on the secretory organs, but with this difference, that whilst long continued action of the one breaks down the strength, that of the other renovates the system.

I shall now proceed to sum up the conclusions I wish to be drawn from the preceding facts and observations.

First, that in Sulphur, and some of its preparations, we possess an article valuable in the Materia Medica, possessing considerable influence over the Biliary apparatus and through the medium gets extended by sympathy, and particularly the cutaneous hepatic, over the

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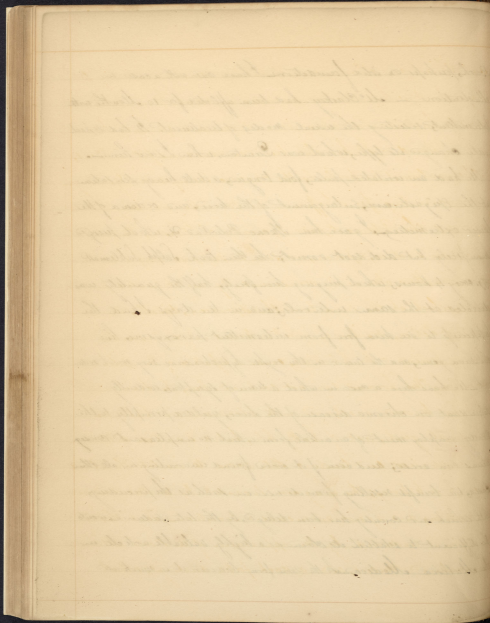
system generally, and more especially the secretory organs, and that
Secondly; possessing all these valuable properties it is more than
probable that it highly deserves the reputation formerly
held in Pulmonary affections. With these views I should think
its employ ment might be advantageously extended to Menses
mut, and some other complaints dependant on the Strumous
Matte, viz, and the Practice of Suppressor, never in cases of
Hysteria. To the Physician the Nation entrusts its hopes, and
domestic life its comforts; how much then does it behoove him to
be on every thing which affords even the shadow of a
prospect of benefit; particularly in cases which like those just men-
tioned compose the *Opportuna Medicamina*. In these diseases
it has chiefly been used in the form of Flowers, Lax, or
some such other only valuable as preventing it ⁱⁿ a state
of extreme mechanical division, and as nearly as may be
free from acid or other impurities. In the same form
it has long enjoyed in domestic practice considerable reputation
in Intermittent Fevers, and in those cases of long standing
kept up either by the force of habit, or from visceral obstructions
which resist, or are even aggravated by, the employ ment of

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Barth, perhaps on solid foundations I have met with a case in
illustration - Mr. Clarke had been afflicted for 10 months with
Intermittents, resisting the usual modes of treatment. It had at last
changed its type, which was Quanta, when I saw him -

He had an irritated pulse, foul tongue, a dull heavy sensation
at the Epigastrium, enlargement of the liver, and oedema of the
lower extremities. I gave him *Storac. Pulv. Rad. J.*, which purged
him freely but did not vomit; he then took Sulph. Sublimat
Jj. every 4 hours, which purging him freely, half the quantity was
discontinued at the same intervals; and in ten days I had the
pleasure to see him free from intermittent paroxysms, his

anaemia gone, and the tumor in the right Hypochondriac very much reduc-
ed. We have here a case in which a train of symptoms, evidently
dependent on chronic disease of the liver, yielded promptly to the
steady employment of an article from which no unpleasant conse-
quences can arise; and even if it were found unavailing in all other
cases, the benefit resulting from its use in such as the preceding,
with which our country has been deluged, by the late epidemic, would
be sufficient to establish its claim as a highly valuable article in
the Materia Medica. In the same form however it is much used



By Dr. Physick and others in cases of habitual constipation By Dr
Physick it is highly recommended in Bilious Fever but what
may be his particular views as to its modus operandi I am
not informed. It has also been considered useful in Gout,
Rheumatism (particularly the Chronic form) and Dysentery.
In accounting for its efficacy in the latter we may call to
our aid the Catarrhic Sympathy of the Colon, the general
effects are such as, a priori, we should suppose useful in this
disease. How often is it occasioned by an obstructed perspi-
ration, which at the same time that it produces, directly, an in-
creased action, resulting in what is termed Dysentery, in the
Mucous lining of the Intestines, causes a cessation of the Biliary
secretion, this however can not continue long; the liver and
its veins become surcharged with blood and we have an
inordinate gush, not of healthy bile, but a secretion altered in
its properties, and tending still more to irritate the already
diseased intestines; this is again succeeded by another temporary
suspension, and again an increased secretion. That this is
the case, is evidenced by the appearance of the stools alternately
purulent & Mucous, and a dark foetid discharge, entirely

...the first of these was the ...
...the second was the ...
...the third was the ...
...the fourth was the ...
...the fifth was the ...
...the sixth was the ...
...the seventh was the ...
...the eighth was the ...
...the ninth was the ...
...the tenth was the ...
...the eleventh was the ...
...the twelfth was the ...
...the thirteenth was the ...
...the fourteenth was the ...
...the fifteenth was the ...
...the sixteenth was the ...
...the seventeenth was the ...
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...the nineteenth was the ...
...the twentieth was the ...
...the twenty-first was the ...
...the twenty-second was the ...
...the twenty-third was the ...
...the twenty-fourth was the ...
...the twenty-fifth was the ...
...the twenty-sixth was the ...
...the twenty-seventh was the ...
...the twenty-eighth was the ...
...the twenty-ninth was the ...
...the thirtieth was the ...

different; both in appearance and composition from all the healthy
secretions. Now in such cases no one doubts the propriety of
the celebrated composition of Calomel, Opium & Spices, with which
however all are cautious not to produce Stomatitis, the benefit
resulting not from the discharge from the salivary glands, but
from its alterant effects on the system generally which this
indicates to have commenced. In the Sulphur we have the
combined effect of the Calomel and Spices - as here it both acts
on the secretory organs, and on the skin, and thus restores
that balance in the system the loss of which constitutes the
disease; This reasoning applies with still greater force to
Diarrhoea. It has also been supposed to possess considerable Anti-
Mucous agency and though it is entirely consistent with the
views I have taken, yet I fear that its powers in this way have
been overrated. Whilst engaged in preparing this I
have been informed by one of my Medical friends that Dr
Peachum a very respectable London practitioner is employing
it very extensively in his practice and looks upon it as quite a
"Sampson" in Medicines. It is beyond doubt our best effluent
in cases of hemorrhoids not only collecting but tending to their cure.

I shall next consider it as an external application in this way it has long been used in diseases of the skin in the form of lung baths either alone, or in combination with Potash or other ingredients. The extreme fulminant however of these applications renders them nearly as bothersome as the diseases they are intended to remove; and even though we go and credit to the late French report as to their superiority over the fumigations, which however I am far from willing to concede, yet granting that they produce a beneficial effect as ~~being~~ efficiently, and with more speed, the fumes as applica by Gales would still be preferred by every one who in the least regards cleanliness and comfort. This report is as follows—

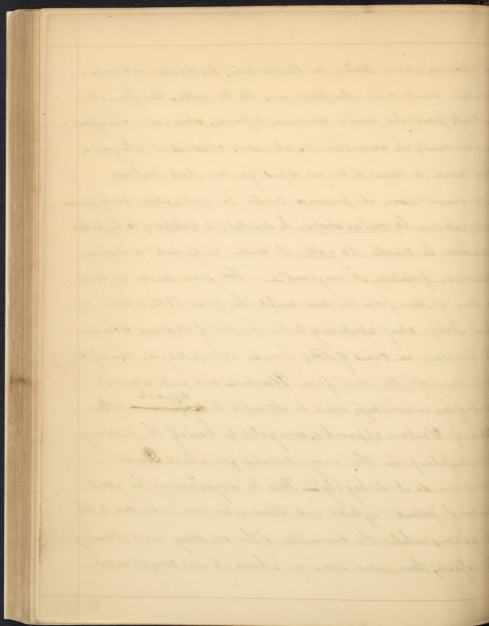
Liniment of Olive oil 3 parts— Camphor 1 part. cures in 13 days and 3 tenths — Sulfur ointment of Sulfur Sublim 2 parts purified Potash one part— Lard 3 parts. Mean duration of treatment 11 days and $\frac{7}{10}$ — Ointment of Sub. Carb. Soda 2 parts— Water 1 part Olive oil and Sulfur 20 4 parts. — Mean duration of treatment 13 days and $\frac{7}{10}$ — Bath of Sulfur or Potash dissolved in water— 17 days and $\frac{3}{10}$ — Sulfurous fumigations require 21 days and $\frac{4}{10}$ and the report adds that the fumigations are very expensive—

It is much to be regretted that fashion should exist in Medicine
yet that it does can not be denied and I am disposed to attrib-
ute a part of at least of the failure of the Fumigation to a change
in the opinions or wishes, of the Physicians, which very probably results
from its having failed to perform the wonders promised for it by
its reverend Mon' Paley. Experience were it uninfluenced by
prejudice would be the same in like cases all the world over.

but how can we reconcile the difference which exists between
this report and that of Dr Emerson who says he has repeatedly
cured cases of simple Itch by no more than 3 applications—
As a general rule it will be found, that the contagious
principles, be it a secretion or animal matter, will be destroyed
by 2 applications, often by the first, and very rarely need
more than 3, yet it is always safer to continue them a
few times longer by way of placing it beyond doubt—

As far as I have been able to ascertain, the method of applying
Sulphurous fumigations to the external surface of the body
was first treated of by Glauber, so early as the commencement
of the 16th century, who speaks of them in the following terms—
Sachet mammaris que tunc his spiritus Sulphureus. Sont

très efficace, contre toutes les obstructions des parties internes,
comme sont celle du poulmon, de la velle, du foie, et
surtout, par les parties nerveuses refroidies, parce qu'il chauffe
puissamment; ils amolissent, attenuent, chassent et nettoient.
C'est ainsi la cause de ce que depuis, que ces esprits sont un
médicament rare et précieux contre la contraction des membres
la paralysie, la mélancholie, le scorbut, le Yulpeie, la hypochon
driacisme, la verole, la galle, et contre toutes sorte d'aleuz
chancreux, fistuleux, et rongeans. For some cause we hear
no more of them from this time until the year 1812, when
Mons^r Palié, chief apothecary to the hospital of St Louis took up
the practice in cases of itch; barely acknowledging himself to
have caught the idea from Haubert and with a great
want of ingeniousness, while he attempts to ^{depreciate} ~~depreciate~~ the
value of Haubert's apparatus, arrogates to himself the discovery
of its usefulness in the very disease for which Haubert
recommends it so highly. Thus he says, "among the great
number of patients affected with Itch who were submitted to the
fumigations whilst the committee of the academy were observing
their effects, there were some in whom it was complicated

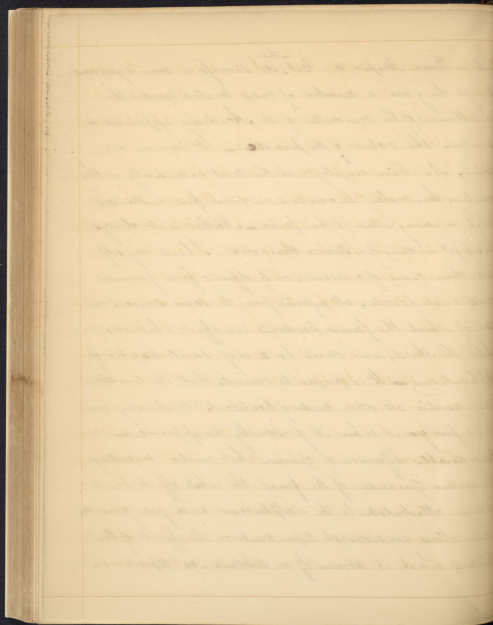


with Furig, Tinea, Scorpis, Syphilitic pustules, or Rheumatic pains
at the close of the treatment some of these patients found them-
selves entirely cured of all their maladies; others in a fair way
of healing, and nearly all, manifestly improved and again
though I owe to chance rather than to reason the extension
which I have given to the employment of my Method of teaching
other diseases &c. — It is however to Moxa Pain that we owe
its introduction to the attention of Modern practitioners and
though, as is mostly the case, its merits were much exag-
gerated in the outset, yet the experience of every day confirms its reputa-
tion as a means, like all others liable to failure yet not not
on that account ^{to} be depreciated. — The apparatus used by
Glauber, of which a plate may be found in his treatise "Sur
les fourneaux philosophiques" as translated into French by Dr
Leib, consisted in an oblong box placed upon one end —
through the top was a hole through which the Man's head
was projected, and his neck was surrounded by cloths tucked
between it and the edges of the opening to prevent the
escape of the fumes: one side was fixed on hinges and
provided with a fastening to act as a door and neck

the bottom one of the sides was perforated by a hole to admit the neck of a retort, the body of which, containing a quantity of Sulphur, was heated so as to produce a slow combustion of its contents. Within was a seat, which might be elevated or depressed according to the height of the subject, and a pan of hot coals. This apparatus was sufficiently complete as respects the introduction of the vapors, but great difficulty was no doubt experienced in the removal of the patient no plan being adopted by which to draw off the fumes which in consequence escaped when the door was opened to permit the eyes of the patient to his great annoyance, and that of the attendant. Paley's first Mode of application was still more objectionable as in addition to this difficulty both the patient and the bed clothes were liable to be scorched by the pan of hot coals which having Sulphur and Nitre (the latter with a view to promote the Combustion of the former) sprinkled on it was introduced along side the patient as he lay in bed; the blankets being tied round his neck to prevent suffocation, but despite all their precautions, the subject of the operation himself, the surrounding patients, and the Nurses, were so

much inconvenienced by the escape of the acid gas that this plan
was abandoned for one, which, though the invention is claimed
for one of M^r Pallet's friends, is so essentially the same as Houlston's
that it will be difficult to describe the difference. It was
made sufficiently large to contain several patients, and instead
of the vessel a small furnace was placed under one end in
such a manner, that it at the same time warmed the air of
the box, and caused the combustion of the Sulphur, which
was introduced into an iron vessel placed over the furnace
and having communication with the box by a large opening
into it, through an iron pipe one end of which entered
the vessel and the other was provided with a stop cock
to prevent the escape of the gas. The chief improvement
consisted in an escape below, which should communicate with
a chimney having a strong draught, so that by undosing
it the box might be very speedily evacuated should any
thing render it necessary. This apparatus still continues in
use; and is found to answer sufficiently well. Pallet's first
experiments were in cases of P^oson, from which he was induced
to extend it to the more serious forms of cutaneous eruptions

such as *Tricus Scleros V.* But ^{in these} its success is more equivo-
cal though he gives a number of cases treated under the
surveillance of the Committee of the Academy appointed to
ascertain the value of the practice. Dr Emerson and
Rivers, who have employed it the most extensively in this
Country, have also succeeded in some few instances
though in many others it has failed. Neither is it always
successful in cases of a Pueria character. I have myself
had three cases of a disease, only differing from genuine
Drops in its locale, all infected from the same source in
two of which the fumes produced no effect whatever,
whilst the third, was cured by a very small number of
applications. It is proper to remark, that the two other
cases resisted all other modes of treatment, continuing un-
abated for years when it gradually disappeared.
Considerable difference of opinion has existed respecting
the modus operandi of the fumes the whole effect being
by some attributed to the Sulphurous acid gas generated,
while others, consider it dependent on the effect of the
Sulphur, which is driven off in substance, and deposited on



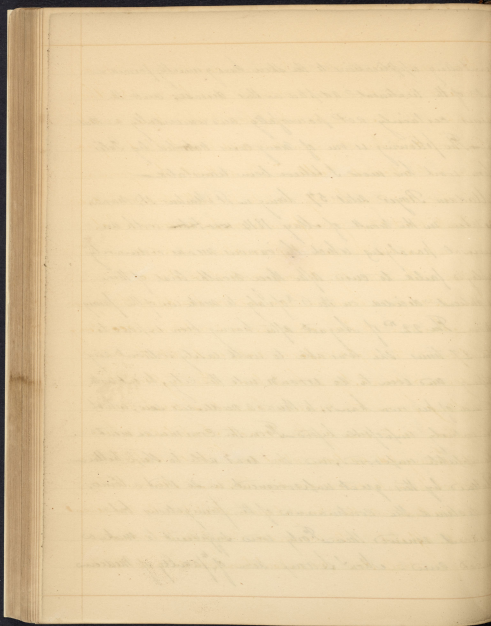
the surface of the patient's body, or here it acts in the same manner as when applied in the form of Mergol. Either of these hypotheses will account for its effect in diseases of the skin but neither in the constitutional affections in which I shall hereafter demonstrate its efficacy. In account for these we must call in the agency of Cutaneous Absorption or Sympathy. I myself am inclined to the latter; for admitting the existence of this function (the absorbent) it can not act in this case; as the skin is continually bathed in profuse perspiration carrying off with it any material substance which may be deposited. Regarding the agency of the sulphur in substance, or the gas here, as in most cases of controversy I am inclined to think "*Natura in media ponitur*" with some inclination however to the side of the gas.

Not the least of its merits consists in its influence over Paralysis a disease whose Pathology is little understood. I have seen two cases in which it was suddenly connected with and dependant on a acute Hepatic disease disappearing immediately after, and disappearing with that affection to which alone the treatment was directed. At all events

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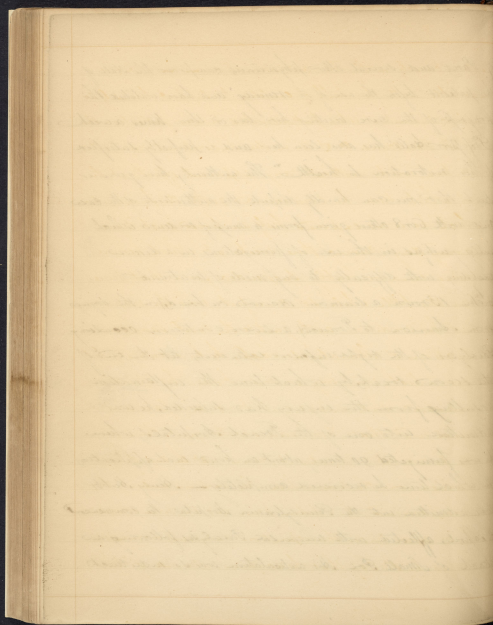
stimulating applications to the skin have generally formed a part of the treatment adopted in this disease; and the fumigations certainly act powerfully and uniformly in that way. The following is one of many cases treated by Falsi whose work has now I believe been translated—

Madam Royer, Aet. 57. living in St. Markus St, Munich, was taken in the month of May 1814 ~~scar-taken~~ with an universal paralysis which the various means ordinarily employed failed to cure. After three months trial of these the patient decided on the 6th of July to make use of the fumigations. The 22nd of August after having been exposed to them 27 times she was able to walk easily without any limping and even to do errands into the city, to eat with the aid of her own hands, to throw a needle, and sew, which were entirely impossible before. From the commencement her appetite improved, and she was able to sleep better. Flattered by this great improvement, in so short a time, she declined the continuance of the fumigations but after ward renewed them. Forty were sufficient to make a perfect cure. Mon^r Leroux dem^r of Faculty of Medicine

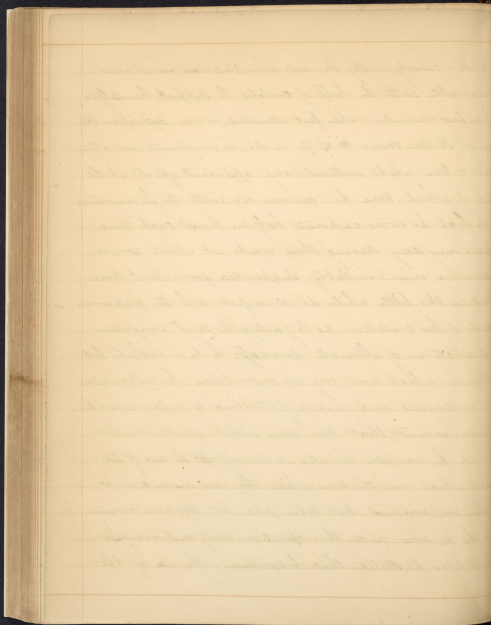


of Paris and several other physicians can prove the state of
the patient before the use of the remedy and have watched the
progress of the cure visiting her two or three times a week
"Prof. Spallanzani has also seen her and is perfectly satisfied
of her restoration to health". The authority here given is
such that one can hardly dispute the authenticity of the case
and with 6 or 8 others given forms a mass of evidence which
fully justifies in the use of fumigations in a disease
yielding with difficulty to any mode of treatment.

John Brown a seaman received on board, on the voyage
from America to France, a severe contusion occasioning
Paralysis of the right inferior extremity. At the end of
the second week, by which time the inflammation
resulting from the injury had subsided, he was
admitted into one of the French Hospitals, where
he was fumigated 20 times, about an hour each application
in which time he recovered completely. Henry Smith
was admitted into the Pennsylvania Hospital the commencement
of April, affected with universal Paralysis following an
attack of Small Pox. His articulation was so indistinct



as to be scarcely intelligible and when placed in an upright
he was able with the help of crutches to support himself so
for a few minutes. When first admitted he was put upon the
use of R. Mac. Donic. & I. ter. in die: he continued using this
during two weeks without any apparent effect: at the
end of which time he commenced with the fumigation
to which he was exposed half an hour each time
once every day during three weeks at which period
they were unavoidably suspended for a short time
But in this little while so manifest was the improve-
ment of his condition as to justify the most sanguine
anticipations of ultimate success; he had entirely lost
a tumor which was very evident before, his articulation
was improved and instead of its being necessary as at the
commencement that two men should assist him into
the bath he was able to enter it himself. At the end of two
weeks which was the time which they were suspended no
further improvement had taken place and they were removed
and he is now under their operation daily improving. It
must also be stated that he continues the use of the

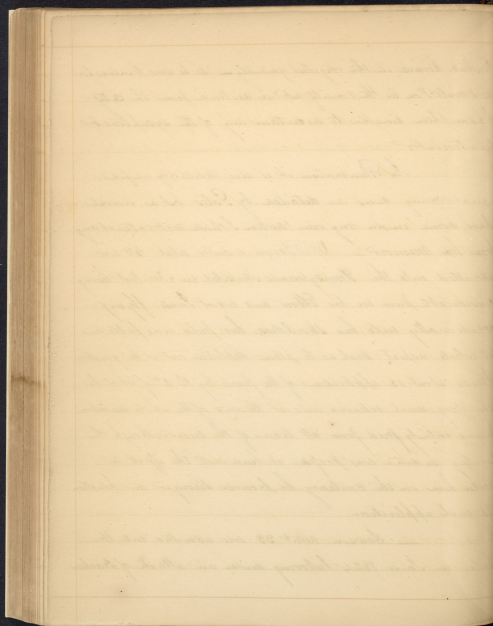


to the same in the original quantity - As he was treated for
the Small Pox in the country at a distance from the City
I have ^{not} been unable to ascertain any of the symptoms or
treatment.

In Pneumonia it is also decidedly useful.

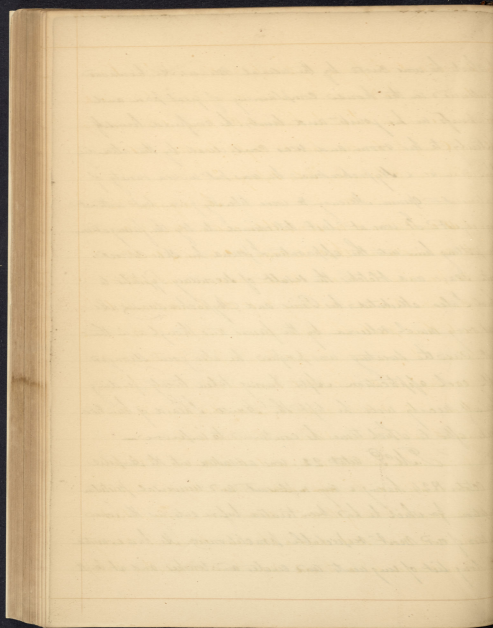
A great many cases are detailed by Galis but as several
have come under my own notice I shall not extract any
from his Memoir - W. Brown a Sailor aetat 50 was
admitted into the Pennsylvania Hospital in Nov last having
considerable pain in his Elbow and wrist joints flying
occasionally into his shoulders, his pulse was feeble and
his whole aspect such as to place depletion out of the question.
I made about 12 applications of the fumes by the 3rd of which he
was very much relieved and at the end of the whole number
he was entirely freed from all traces of the disease, though the
sweating induced was profuse it had not the effect to
weaken him on the contrary he became stronger and heartier
after each application.

— Lawson aetat 35 was admitted into the
House in June 1824 laboring under an attack of Diarrhoea



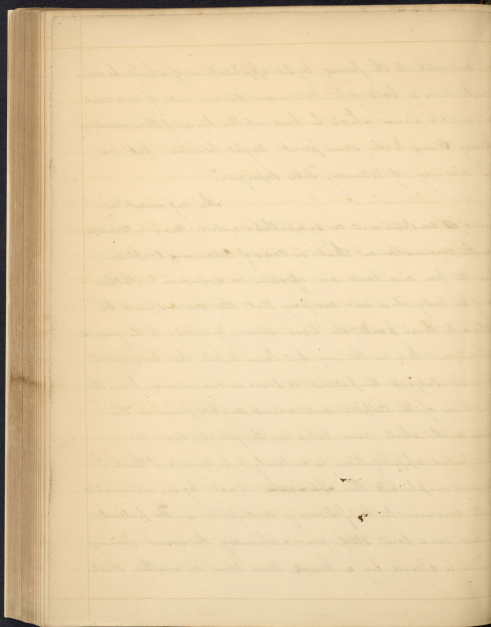
of which he was cured by the usual means. He however continued in the house complaining of great pain and weakness in his joints and limbs: he confined himself entirely to his room and was considered by the attending Physician as a *Hypochondriac*: he was put under a variety of treatment - Opium, Mercury &c were liberally given but without any effect - It was at last determined to try the sanguification. On putting him into the apparatus, I found his skin covered with sores and blotches the result of secondary Syphilis to which I also attributed his Pains and *Hypochondriacism*: He was very much relieved by the fumes and though as in the last case the sweating was profuse he also grew stronger after each application. After having taken twenty finding himself nearly well he left the house. I heard of him two weeks after to which time he continued to improve -

J. M. P. Oct 22. was admitted into the Hospital in October 1824 having a very unpleasant and universal pustular eruption for which he had been treated before entering the house by two of our most respectable practitioners. He had exhausted the long list of purgatives and emetics and blisters and at length



were subjected to the fumes by 20 applications of which he was
entirely cured both of the Cutaneous disease and of very acute
Rheumatic pains which he had at the time of Commencing.
Many Cases to the same point might be cited but we
have already of testimony "Satis Superque"

An argument in
favor of its constitutional or sympathetic action may be drawn
from the circumstance that in Cases of Cutaneous Eruption
where the face and head are affected in common with the
rest of the body it is not necessary that the fumes should be
applied to those parts, the local disease yielding to the general
application. It is in this way that Tinea Capitis has been treated
but as it subjects the patient to some inconvenience from the
restriction of the Catheter and a considerable pain in the
insertion in the Male and Vulva in the female some means
for its local application is certainly to be desired. I think I
have accomplished this ~~object~~ object by an apparatus
which answers to the following description - The patient
is seated on a low stool near a chimney the usual opening
to which is closed by a board. Near him on another stool



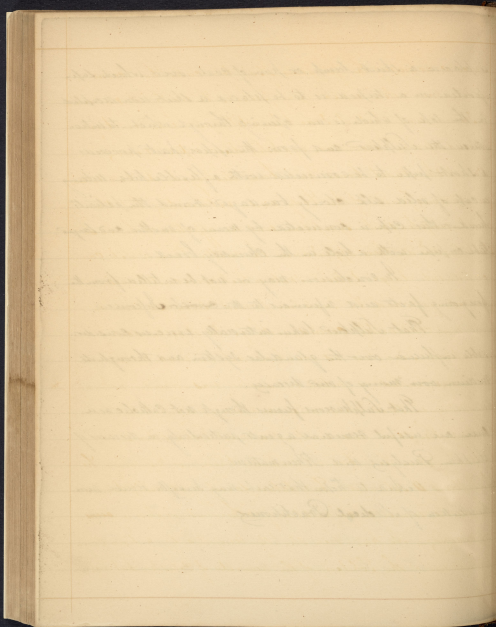
is placed a spirit lamp or pan of coals over which supported on a tripod is to be placed a sheet-iron receptacle in the top of which is an opening through which to introduce the Sulphur and from the upper part proceeds a short pipe to be connected with a flexible tube entering a cap of oiled silk closely bandaged round the patient's head. This cap is connected by means of another and longer tube or pipe with a hole in the Chimney board.

In conclusion may we not be entitled from the foregoing facts and references to the ~~English~~ Infernal

That Sulphur taken internally exercises considerable influence over the glandular system and through its medium, over many of our diseases

That Sulphurous fumes though not Catholic as a cure are useful remedial agents particularly in diseases of the skin. Paralyzing and Rheumatism,

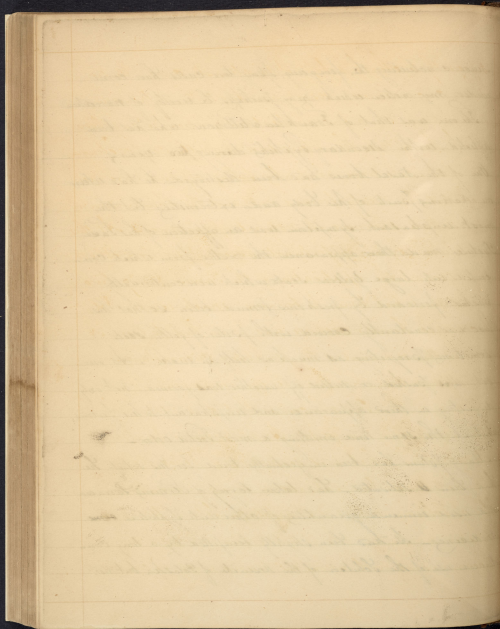
And to hope that each may hereafter receive more the attention of Medical Practitioners



Since concluding the foregoing I say two cases have come under my notice which may perhaps be worthy of narration.

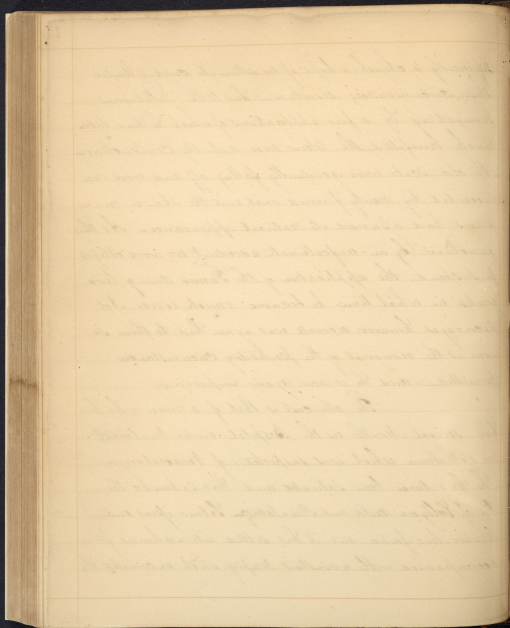
The one was that of Franklin Stillman who had been afflicted with secondary Syphilis during two years. One of the nasal bones had been destroyed. He had ulcers on various parts of his body and extremities but the most unpleasant symptom was an affection of his face. Pustules made their appearance the matter from which coagulated into large yellow scabs which were continually pushed forward by fresh ones formed below so that his face was constantly covered with piles of filthy scabs sometimes projecting as much as half an inch. As one scab was pushed or pulled off another was formed not only disgusting in their appearance and unpleasant to his feelings but at the same time emitting a most foetid odor.

Many plans had been ineffectually tried for his relief. He had been & salivated - had taken largely of various tonics and used immense quantities of other anti Syphilitic medicines - He had been slightly benefited by a long continued use of the Solution of the arsenite of Potash but not



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sufficiently to cherish a hope of an ultimate cure. Under
these circumstances resort was had to the Sulphurous
Fumigations by a few applications of which he had been
much benefited. The Ulcers were rapidly contracting -
the old Scabs were gradually falling off and were not
succeeded by newly formed ones and the skin in many
places had assumed its natural appearance. At this
juncture by an unfortunate accident we were obliged
to suspend the application of the Fumes during two
weeks in which time he became much worse. Not
discouraged however recourse was again had to them so
soon as the removal of the prohibitory circumstances
permitted and he is now again improving.

The other case is that of a man who has
been several months in the Hospital under treatment
for ophthalmia which was suspected of venereal origin.
He had twice been salivated and had exhausted the
list of Collyria mild and stimulating. Letons issues and
Blisters had failed and it had settled into a chronic form
accompanied with a constant Weeping which excoriated the



Chick - 157. Eight or ten applications he was entirely
relieved. - In this case it is most likely the benefit resulted
from the local application of the sulphurous gas to the
Conjunctions -

